



MEDI-CAL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How many Californians benefit from Medi-Cal services?

Medi-Cal serves approximately 7.5 million Californians, nearly half of whom are children.

2. What is Medi-Cal?

Created in 1966, Medi-Cal is California's Medicaid public health insurance program that provides needed health care services for low-income individuals including families with children, seniors, persons with disabilities, foster care, pregnant women, and low-income people with specific diseases, such as tuberculosis, breast cancer, or HIV/AIDS. Medi-Cal is financed equally by the state and federal government. Medi-Cal accepts applicants regardless of sex, race, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, or veteran status.

3. What is Medi-Cal's budget?

Medi-Cal is the state's second largest General Fund expenditure. Its 2009-10 budget is more than \$40 billion.

4. Who Can Get Medi-Cal?

- Low-income families participating in CalWORKs and those who meet financial standards for Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) that were in effect in July 1996.
- Seniors and people with disabilities participating in the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program.
- Pregnant women and children with family incomes below specified levels.
- Children receiving foster care and adoption assistance.
- Certain low-income Medicare beneficiaries.
- Other individuals and groups.

5. How many providers participate in the Medi-Cal program?

More than 440 hospitals and approximately 130,000 doctors, pharmacists, dentists and other health care providers deliver medically necessary services to Medi-Cal recipients.

6. How much federal funding does Medi-Cal bring into the state's health care system?

Medi-Cal draws more than \$20 billion in federal funds.